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and well done. In fact, the book improves as it proceeds. As stated at the outset, we would urge every teacher of physics to study the work carefully, as he cannot fail to be helped thereby in gaining greater definiteness of aim in his work.

But one word more. In chap. 2 attention is called to the value of including some history of physics in the work. This is important, for not only can the teacher interest the members of his class by giving them "a brief account of the long contest which beginning in the time of Newton, ended in the final establishment of the undulatory theory of light," but he can also thereby add a very important element to the instruction by so presenting the history that the students grasp the fact that the ideas make up the real life of physics, and that those ideas develop and grow according to a law of evolution which is the same as that manifested in the other branches of human thought. While the scientific method of thought, whose attainment we hold to be the real excuse for instruction in physics, serves as a unifying bond between the various sciences, so it will be found that the historical evolution of ideas, when properly discussed, furnishes a chain which connects physics vitally with the other fields of human thought.

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SOME BOOKS ON ENGLISH.

Chaucer: Prologue, Knightes Tale, Norme Priestes Tale. Edited in Critical Text, with Grammatical Introduction, Notes, and Glossary. By MARK H. LIDDELL. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1901; \$0.60.

THIS edition of Chaucer's best-known tales contains a very valuable grammatical introduction, fully indexed, which also does duty as an elementary grammar of Middle English. As such it will be very welcome to teachers and students who have not been trained in the earlier stages of our language and to whom such a grammar has hitherto been inaccessible. There is no presupposing of knowledge of Old English; in fact, the whole grammar is written from the standpoint of a beginner in Middle English. After a brief statement of Middle English dialects and the sounds and writing of Chaucer's English there follows a comparison of these sounds with those of Modern English; then follows the development of the Middle English sounds from Old English, secs. 46-88; the old Norse and old French elements are treated in secs. 89-90. In the second part the inflections take up secs. 91-187. Part III is given to syntax, secs. 188-234, and in Part IV versification, secs. 235-78, is treated. In this latter part some reference to the survival of alliteration should have found mention, for which there are some striking examples in the *Knightes Tale*, ll. 2601 ff.

After this grammar there follows a brief sketch of Chaucer's life, and then the text, based on the Ellesmere manuscript, from the readings of which, however, the editor sometimes departs without giving good reason. In a school edition the notes must necessarily be brief, but these are supplemented by a very good vocabulary.

There are some very minor details of the book which will doubtless be improved in a second edition, but these do not detract in the main from the completeness and great usefulness of the book. We can heartily commend it to all students of Chaucer and of Middle English grammar.